



Universal Acceptance Day Uruguay - May 26, 2025

Statistics for Uruguay, summary of measurements and the work of the Email Address Internationalization (EAI) Working Group

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1. Introduction to Universal Acceptance (UA):

- UA requires **all applications, websites, and systems** to accept and correctly handle **domain names and email addresses containing non-ASCII characters**, such as tildes, tildes, and characters from non-Latin alphabets (Chinese, Arabic, Japanese, etc.).
- This is crucial for **international business** and for **effective communication between governments** and companies in different countries.

2. Limitations in Uruguayan infrastructure:

- Many **web forms, websites, and email servers** in Uruguay do not accept internationalized characters.
 - Concrete example: **Nicholas** cannot register an email account with an accent on “ adinet ”, and many sites do not correctly validate addresses with non-ASCII characters.
 - Some domains accept special characters (such as "peñarol.org" with “ñ”), but **do not have mail servers (MX) configured** , which prevents sending or receiving emails.
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3. Technical study and use of Python script:

- In 2024, Fiumarelli developed a **Python script** (based on an EAI checker) to analyze the technical compliance of servers.
- **100 Uruguayan domains** were evaluated, including public entities, private companies, and platforms such as PedidosYa and MercadoLibre.
- In 2025, the analysis was expanded to **1,000 domains** for a more comprehensive view.

Results :

- **Only 7%** of servers were EAI **compliant** .
 - **92% were non-compliant** , and of the 8% that were, **only 1% used their own servers** (the rest used third-party services such as Gmail or Outlook).
 - In comparison, **India reports 26% compliance** .
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4. Implications social and cultural :

- Not being able to register addresses such as “ iñaki @...”, “maría@...”, or names with other alphabets **violates cultural and linguistic rights** .
 - This particularly affects foreigners, immigrants, and members of indigenous communities.
 - **Local example:** A foreigner cannot properly register for services like **Ticantel** if their name cannot be spelled correctly.
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5. Consequences economic :

- **Loss of international business:** If Chinese or Arab companies are unable to communicate with Uruguayan entities due to problems with their domain names or email addresses.
 - Uruguay **is missing out on the opportunity to attract millions of users** from other cultures or languages.
 - Fiumarelli highlights the potential of the **DNS market** and the role that digital identity plays in innovation.
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6. Causes structural aspects of the problem :

- **Legacy systems** that have not been updated.
 - Lack of **institutional awareness** of the importance of the issue.
 - **Absence of public policies and specific regulations** on universal acceptance or EAI.
 - **Lack of academic training:** IT professionals don't learn about UA/EAI at university. Therefore, it is proposed to incorporate these topics into the curriculum with support from **UNESCO and Universal Acceptance Steering Group** .
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7. Recommendations :

- **Conduct technical audits** in institutions and companies.
 - **Update forms** to correctly validate internationalized addresses.
 - Promote **public policies and specialized training** .
 - Adopt accessible solutions: With tools like **ChatGPT** , even a child can set up a compatible server.
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8. Conclusion :

- The issue of Universal Acceptance **goes beyond the technical** . It's a question of **digital inclusion, cultural identity, equity, and competitiveness** .

- must be raised , **practical solutions implemented** , and progress must be made toward an ecosystem where **all users can fully exercise their right to a digital identity in their own language** .
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